

AUGUST 23, 1976

KOREA IN BROADER PERSPECTIVE

ANNCR: LAST WEEK'S INCIDENTS IN KOREA-- THE MURDER OF TWO AMERICAN OFFICERS BY NORTH KOREAN FORCES IN THE TRUCE ZONE, AND THE RESULTING SHOW OF FORCE BY THE UNITED STATES-- ILLUSTRATE THE CONTINUING TENSIONS ON THE PENINSULA. VOA NEWS ANALYST GEORGE HALSEY REVIEWS THE KOREAN PROBLEM IN A BROADER PERSPECTIVE.

VOICE: FEW IF ANY EDITORIALS IN AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS HAVE CALLED FOR RETALIATION AGAINST NORTH KOREA FOR LAST WEEK'S MURDERS. BUT SEVERAL HAVE MENTIONED THE FRUSTRATION OF HAVING TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT. THE REASON, OF COURSE, IS THAT THE UNITED STATES FULLY REALIZES THAT INCIDENTS IN KOREA HAVE A POTENTIAL FOR ESCALATION FOUND IN FEW OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. (OPT) THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR LISTS BERLIN AS ANOTHER SUCH LOCALE, BUT NOTES THAT THE MAJOR POWERS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY AVOIDED CONFRONTATION THERE IN RECENT YEARS. ONE MIGHT ALSO MENTION THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT ALTHOUGH TENSION RISES AND FALLS THERE, NONE OF THE MAJOR POWERS HAS FORCES DIRECTLY INVOLVED AS THEY DO IN BERLIN AND KOREA. (END OPT).

FOUR MAJOR POWERS HAVE INTERESTS THAT COME TOGETHER IN KOREA-- JAPAN, THE SOVIET UNION, THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES. BECAUSE OF THIS, PEACE AND SECURITY ON THE PENINSULA ARE VITAL TO PEACE IN EAST ASIA. DESPITE NORTH KOREAN CLAIMS, NONE OF THOSE MAJOR POWERS, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, HAS SHOWN ANY INTEREST IN PROVOKING INCIDENTS OR INCREASING TENSIONS IN KOREA. THE FACT IS, THAT IN RECENT YEARS, VIRTUALLY ALL THE PROVOCATION AND EFFORTS TO BUILD TENSION HAVE COME FROM NORTH KOREA ITSELF.

THE RECORD WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT NORTH KOREA HAS NO INTEREST IN THE KIND OF DIALOGUE THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO REDUCE

TENSIONS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH. THE NORTH HAS CONSISTENTLY REBUFFED SOUTH KOREAN ATTEMPTS TO OPEN A DIALOGUE-- EITHER IN KOREA OR AT THE UNITED NATIONS. MOST RIDICULOUS OF ALL, NORTH KOREA LAST YEAR PROPOSED THAT THE KOREAN PENINSULA'S FUTURE BE DECIDED BY THE UNITED STATES AND NORTH KOREA WITH THE OTHER TWO- THIRDS OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE IN THE SOUTH HAVING NO VOICE WHATSOEVER.

THE UNITED STATES HAS AGREED THAT IT MAY BE DESIREABLE TO END THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND THAT HAS BEEN SUPERVISING THE ARMISTICE EVER SINCE THE KOREAN WAR HOSTILITIES ENDED TWENTY THREE YEARS AGO. BUT THE U.S. BELIEVES THE ARMISTICE MUST BE REPLACED BY A NEW LEGAL MECHANISM OF A MORE PERMANENT NATURE. AND THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS, WOULD SEEM TO BE A CONFERENCE BETWEEN THOSE DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH KOREA-- THE TWO KOREAN GOVERNMENTS, THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES.

THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT NORTH KOREA WANTS TO SEE A UNIFIED KOREA--BUT ONLY ON ITS OWN TERMS WHICH MEANS NORTH KOREAN CONTROL. THUS IT WOULD APPEAR THAT WHATEVER FRUSTRATION THERE MAY BE IN CONNECTION WITH KOREA IS FELT MORE KEENLY IN THE NORTH, AND THAT CONTINUED FAILURE TO ACHIEVE ITS ONE-SIDED SOLUTION IS DRIVING THE NORTH TO CONTINUED PROVOCATIONS AND INCIDENTS SUCH AS THAT AT PANMUNJON LAST WEEK.